

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Young Men's Christian Association,

OF HARRISBURG, PA.,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 14, 1871,


WITH THE

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE ASSOCIATION,

LIST OF OFFICERS, COMMITTEES, &c.

“That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us.”

HARRISBURG, PA.
SIEG, PRINTER AND STATIONER.
1871.



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OFFICERS FOR 1871-2.

PRESIDENT—S. K. DEITRICK.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

JOHN M. SAYFORD,
A. CARL SWOPE,
WALTER F. FAHNESTOCK, Jr.,
L. O. FOOSE,
A. JUDSON PUGH,
WARREN A. ZOLLINGER,
M. STECKLEY,

JOHN A. BORLAND,
J. F. SEILER,
CHAS. A. KUNKEL,
D. C. KOLP,
W. H. WAGGONER,
G. D. GROSS.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY—S. J. M. MCCARRELL.

RECORDING SECRETARY—W. H. FRY.

TREASURER—JOHN E. PATTERSON.

LIBRARIAN—DANIEL J. HOUSER.

BOARD OF MANAGERS.

JOHN E. PATTERSON,
WALLACE W. FAHNESTOCK,
H. EBERSOLE,
GEO. W. EARNEST,
D. HOWARD BROWN,
GEORGE PEIRCE,

WILLIAM B. SOURBIER,
MARTIN ROHRER,
EDW. ROCKAFELLAR,
R. H. MOFFITT,
CHAS. BOYER,
J. BARTON WEIKER.

COMMITTEES.

Lectures—J. F. Seiler, Wallace W. Fahnestock, S. J. M. McCarrell.

Visiting Sick Members—A. Judson Pugh, John Moore, Martin Stutzman, J. Rohrer, Walter F. Fahnestock, Jr.

Ways and Means—David C. Kolp, James McCormick, Wm. H. Fry.

Statistics—W. H. Waggoner, Wm. H. Fry, Chas. Boyer.

Library and Rooms—John A. Borland, W. H. Fry, Martin Stutzman.

Prison Services—John A. Borland, Martin Stutzman, Chas. A. Kunkel.

Monthly Prayer Meeting—Warren A. Zollinger, R. H. Moffitt, Chas. A. Kunkel.

Weekly Prayer Meeting—Martin Stutzman, Geo. A. Peirce, G. D. Gross.

Daily Prayer Meeting—J. F. Seiler, James McCormick, John E. Patterson.

Publication—John M. Sayford, Wallace W. Fahnestock, Daniel J. Houser.

Alms House Services—Walter F. Fahnestock, Jr., John E. Patterson, Geo. W. Earnest.

Street Preaching—Walter F. Fahnestock, Jr., M. Steckley, Wm. B. Sourbier, G. D. Gross, D. H. Brown, A. Judson Pugh, Jno. A. Borland, Riley Wilson, S. C. Woodward, Jno. E. Patterson, H. Ebersole, Geo. W. Earnest, Martin Rohrer, R. H. Moffitt, John Moore.

Temperance—Chas. Boyer, John A. Borland, A. Judson Pugh.

Sabbath Schools—R. H. Moffitt, Martin Stutzman, Edw. Rockafellar.

Cottage Prayer Meetings—James McCormick, Martin Stutzman, Riley Wilson, Geo. W. Earnest, Walter F. Fahnestock, Jr.

Organization—James McCormick, Jno. A. Borland, Jno. E. Patterson, Martin Stutzman, Chas. A. Kunkel, E. Franciscus.

ANNUAL REPORTS.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT.

DEAR BRETHREN AND FRIENDS :

In the providence of God we are assembled, this evening, to celebrate the sixteenth anniversary of the YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION of Harrisburg.

Our hearts, teeming with profound gratitude to our Heavenly Father, for the blessings which have attended us during the past year, let us seek wisdom from Him to direct us in the future management of its affairs.

Another year has been added to the existence of our cherished institution, carrying with it all the opportunities it offered us for doing good. With increasing experience as to the power and adaptation of our Association as an agency for good, it becomes us carefully to inquire at each point of observation, how far our experience has been applied to the work we have undertaken. Such a scrutiny will assist us to form a more correct estimate of our proper sphere, and give us a more exalted view of the labor in which we are engaged.

The resignation of our esteemed President, Jacob F. Seiler, in the early part of the year, made it the duty of the *Board of Managers* to fill the vacancy by appointment until the next ensuing annual meeting. Unexpectedly the duties of that responsible position were assigned your unworthy speaker. In assuming the duties of the office my feelings partook largely of those unpleasant sensations produced by a keen sense of one's inability to perform the duties in such a manner as the interests of the Association demands. Permit me, brethren, to extend to you my heartfelt thanks for the truly generous Christian spirit which has characterized your deportment toward me during the time I have been your President.

In reviewing the labors of the year that has just been brought to a close, with all the perplexities and disappointments which have attended it, we feel that there is abundant cause for encouragement ; and our grateful acknowledgments are due that all-protecting Power which has prospered the work of our hands.

We have endeavored to direct our attention to the accomplishment of such objects as were deemed most probable to result in good ; hence our work will pre-

sent a diversified appearance—taking in all proper subjects demanding our sympathy; and invoking such assistance as we, in our weakness, could render, in order to improve their present and future condition. It is scarcely to be supposed that in a work of this character we have met with no discouragements—that we have not had our doubts and fears. All who are engaged in the work of moral reform—in the advancement of doctrines distasteful to the human heart, know that it is a perplexing and unremunerative warfare.

We feel deeply sensible that we have not done all we could have done; that the full measure of our capacity for usefulness has not been attained. This, indeed, would seem almost without a limit. New objects are constantly presenting themselves, enlarged facilities for doing good, and a pathway, all radiant with heavenly glory, is ever opening before us as we press to meet the calls of duty. However tardy to comprehend and reluctant to perform the duties devolving upon us we have been; however much of faltering and weariness we may have manifested, we render our account with the consciousness of having done some good; small as it may appear to those who are more efficient laborers in the cause of the Master. We rejoice that our labor has not been in vain; and that such have been the visible results, that we feel greatly encouraged to commence the labors of another year with increased energy and confidence.

The financial condition of the Association has been greatly improved, and suggests reason for encouragement and congratulation. The debt, which for a long time paralyzed all our efforts and presented a barrier to the onward march of the Association in its field of usefulness, has been removed; and our treasury placed in a more healthy condition, as will be seen by the Treasurer's report. This gratifying result is due the untiring efforts of the previous administration, and the adoption of a more rigid economy in expenditure, as well as to the commendable liberality of the Christian people of this community in contributing of their means to support this worthy enterprise. In this connection we would make grateful mention of the ladies who contributed so large a share to the success of the festival held in June last, which largely replenished the treasury.

The fact that we have not had as many lectures as in other years, may have been a matter of surprise to our friends. The Lecture Committee have very wisely allowed past experience to guide them on this subject. That experience, as you are aware, told of many unremunerative lectures; and as many lectures delivered on the most popular subjects, under the most favorable circumstances, for other societies, proved barely remunerative, it was deemed best not to engage lecturers who, under unfavorable circumstances, would entail loss on the Association and deplete the treasury.

The object of our Association, as expressed in the Constitution, is "the improvement of the spiritual, mental and social condition of young men." "The duties of members," as defined by the same instrument, "shall be to seek out young men coming into our midst, and endeavor to bring them under moral and religious influence; and if possible secure their attendance at some place of worship on the Sabbath." Thus we have in as few words as possible, the central idea of the Association as contemplated in its organization. This is the distinctive feature in its character, for the accomplishment of which we should employ all the agencies at our command. In the selection of these agencies resort has been had to those which are purely spiritual and intellectual in their tendency. We can but briefly glance at this subject, without particularizing on any point of interest which might present itself to the mind upon which it would be pleasing to elaborate.

During the twelve months just passed, we held over five hundred religious meetings. The list comprises *Monthly, Weekly and Daily Prayer Meetings, Street Preaching*, services in the *County Prison, Alms House Services* and *Sabbath School* sessions. These, in connection with a free reading room, well supplied with useful reading matter, consisting of religious and secular papers, magazines and books, constitute the principal agencies by which we have endeavored to effect the end contemplated. We look upon the devotional meeting as the great instrumentality to reach the heart; while our reading and conversation rooms, with their enginery, are well adapted to develop the intellectual and social qualities of young men, and prove a valuable aid to keep them from the slippery paths of vice and immorality, which lead to death.

Our rooms are located in a central and pleasant part of the city; and so far as our limited means will allow, are comfortable and inviting. The want of many improvements in this department has been felt for a long time. Happily, in answer to earnest prayer, we trust this want has been met by the truly generous donation of one thousand dollars by Henry McCormick, Esq., to be applied in such a manner as to add new attractions to the rooms, and thereby secure an increased attendance, and enlarge the circle of its influence.

The Committee on *Library and Rooms* have made such improvements and changes as were deemed best, and as were calculated to make the rooms cheerful, inviting and home-like. These improvements have given general satisfaction—all seem delighted and speak approvingly of the taste displayed and economy exercised by the committee. We feel that we are not over-estimating the importance attached to this effort when we say that the good results growing out of an enterprise of this kind are visible everywhere.

By the facilities of the present day we are placed in close proximity to the large cities, the press of which are constantly sending forth such matter as will surely have a baneful and fearfully demoralizing effect upon the minds and hearts of our young men. It therefore becomes the duty of every good citizen to assist in providing such means as shall tend to counteract these pernicious and destructive influences. It is our duty to remember the stranger kindly; to give him the hand of friendship; to invite him to our rooms and do him all the good we can. I speak from experience, when I say that about twelve years ago, a young man came into this city a stranger—without a friend—whose cheerless hours would have been relieved of their weight of loneliness, had some kind Christian young man taken him by the hand and introduced him to pleasant and agreeable society. A young man is never so easily impressed with good or evil, so thankful for friendship and sympathy, as under these circumstances. We would have it known, far and wide, that the rooms of the Young Men's Christian Association of this city are open to all.

We have held *open air meetings* in the suburbs of the city during the summer season. It is well known that there are many persons in our community who never attend divine service on the Sabbath, but spend that holy day by gathering at different points, and there discuss the current events of the day. These men not only do themselves great injury, but their example has a telling effect upon the children. To remedy this evil, if possible, street preaching has been introduced; and there have not been wanting ministers and laymen who feared not to stand up boldly in the highways to proclaim the gospel, and give utterance to the fearful warnings and kind entreaties of an offended, yet merciful God. Many events have transpired in connection with these meetings to give us hope of a rich harvest.

The Daily Union Prayer Meeting has been maintained during the year; and although the attendance has been small, the exercises have been interesting and profitable. The devoted brethren who have kept the fire burning upon the altâr, speak in the strongest terms of the spirit which generally prevailed.

A Weekly Prayer Meeting was organized in the early part of the year, but was subsequently abandoned for want of support. In October it was revived and held on Saturday evening instead of Thursday. This change had a good effect; the attendance has been cheering; the interest deep; and the hope is entertained that lasting good will crown the effort.

We need scarcely refer to the *Monthly Union Prayer Meeting*, so well known and highly appreciated by the prayer-loving people of this community. These meetings keep the Association constantly before the public, and tend to assuage the asperity of denominational distinctions.

It would give us pleasure to speak of our work in the *County Prison*, the *Alms House* and in our *Mission Sabbath School*; suffice it to say that the several committees having this work in charge have always presented cheering reports at our monthly meetings; and have encouraged our hearts in the fact that the Lord was using us as humble instruments to carry His gospel to the unfortunate, the degraded and the children of the neglected poor. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these, ye have done it unto me." The eager looks, the tearful eyes and the expressions of gratitude witnessed by the brethren whose time is given to this truly Christian mission, are proof positive that we are about "our Father's business."

Our report is now before you. We have hastily passed over the events of the year and the work which has engaged our attention; we need hardly say that much has been done of which no mention has been made, and of which we have no record. If we have been earnest laborers in the vineyard of the Lord; if the glory of our Divine Master has been our chief aim; if we have sacrificed ease and comfort; if the spiritual wants of humanity have pressed heavily upon our hearts; if we have done our part to smooth the pathway of the weary and faint, be assured our record is on high. God, whose watchful eye surveys the universe, has witnessed it all; and no kind act, no word of cheer, no throb of sympathy will fail of a rich and precious reward. Let no Christian member of this Association imagine that he has accomplished no good by his connection with us. No magnificent results may be apparent, but it is those who come in contact with individual character; those who avail themselves of the unpretending, minute agencies of doing good, who really accomplish most. If, in the little sphere afforded you by this institution, you irradiate kindness, love and good will, you will exert the same power in the world. If you are indifferent and cold, you will stand an iceberg—frigid and barren.

And now the history of this Association, embracing the past year, has been hastily and imperfectly laid before you. Another year, full of destiny and weight of solemn responsibility, is pressing hard upon us, while the Master himself is calling upon each to stand firm in the conflict. Putting on the whole armor of God let us enter upon the work before us with a deep sense of personal responsibility; with unwavering faith and humble trust in Christ our Lord, and under him, relying upon the hearty co-operation of our rapidly increasing membership. And we feel sure that if we show good works we shall have the sympathy and aid of all who are in any way interested in the welfare of our city. We take great pleasure in inviting the young men of our city to "come with us, that we may do them good."

S. K. DEITRICK,
President.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER.

RECEIPTS.

From former Treasurer	\$31 89	
“ Dues	115 00	
“ Donations.....	1,256 00	
“ Lectures, Festival, &c., net.....	324 74	
“ Gas and Rent.....	40 05	\$1,767 68

EXPENDITURES.

Old Bills	\$154 27	
Gas.....	45 45	
Rent	250 00	
Janitor.....	78 25	
Cleaning Rooms	11 00	
Matting	25 65	
Coal, &c.....	12 15	
Stove	25 37	
Magazines and Papers.....	11 20	
Transparency.....	15 21	
Subscription to State Ex. Com.....	100 00	
Frames for Pictures and Mottoes.....	9 50	
Postage and Rent of Box in P. O.....	9 09	
Express, &c.....	5 44	\$752 58
Balance.....		\$1,015 10

JOHN E. PATTERSON,
Treasurer.

Harrisburg, Feb. 14, 1871.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LIBRARY AND ROOMS.

To the President and Members of the Young Men's Christian Association :

The following report of the operations of the Committee on Library and Rooms for the fiscal year just closing is respectfully submitted.

Your Committee consisted originally of brothers C. A. Kunkel, Chairman, Jno. A. Winebrenner and Wm. H. Fry. In September last the resignation of brother Winebrenner was accepted, and in the following month brother George Earnest was elected to fill the vacancy.

Its doings in the early part of the year were confined only to the cleaning of the rooms ; procuring a new stove in place of the old one, considerably worn out, and new locks and keys for the library cases. In the month of November a

transparency, lighted with gas jets, was put up immediately in front of the building, and the inscription thereon—"All are Welcome"—had the effect of increasing the attendance and bringing in others who probably knew nothing of the existence or location of a Y. M. C. Association in the city. Other improvements were desired by the Committee, but what funds remained in the Treasury were necessary for room rent and other current expenses.

By the generous donation of Mr. Henry McCormick, of a thousand dollars, in December last, your Committee were enabled to accomplish the much needed repairs and with the opening of the new year active operations were commenced.

The walls having been newly calsomined, and the wood work repainted at the expense of the owner—Mr. Fleming—a new and handsome book-case, extending the whole length of one side of the room was erected; also two newspaper racks of a new and tasteful design, a table with places divided off for the different magazines and pamphlets was placed in one end of the room; and a writing desk at the other end for the Librarian and for public use. New matting of a superior quality has been laid in both rooms, and two new blinds for the windows of the reading room were generously donated by Messrs. Shaffer & Son. We would call attention to the neatly executed motto—"Workers together with Christ"—in the meeting room directly over the President's chair, as appropriate to the sphere and calling of the Association. With the addition of other beautiful mottoes and pictures adorning the walls, the appearance of the rooms is greatly changed. Before, where there was a certain want of cheerfulness about the rooms that was felt and remarked by many, there is now an atmosphere of home-like comfort which is increased by the bright and mellow light diffused by the shade reflectors from the gas lights.

All the old magazines and periodicals which have been accumulating for some years past, were thoroughly overhauled, and what were deemed suitable for binding were sent to the bindery.

Attention has not yet been given to replenishing the Library for want of time, and it being deemed advisable to defer the purchase of books until after the repairs were completed, that we might know how much of the donation remained unexpended, and could be judiciously used for that purpose.

In conclusion, your Committee have only to say that they have been guided to perform what they have done by an earnest desire to promote the welfare of the Association and to increase its usefulness; and they retire with the hope that their actions have met with the full approval of the Association.

CHAS. A. KUNKEL,

Chairman.

Harrisburg, Feb. 14, 1871.

REPORT OF MISSION SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

To the President and Brethren of the Y. M. C. A.

One of the immediate and substantial results of the missionary work in 1866-67 was the establishment of the West Harrisburg Mission Sunday School. When it was opened there was not another Sunday School in that part of the city. Since its institution four other Schools have been established by different denominations. They have superseded the work of our School to a degree, not so far, however, as to warrant its disbandment, or to encourage us to place it in the hands of any of these denominations. At the first opening of the School there were present, I think, 60 boys and girls who had not attended a Sunday School for many months, and some never before ; want of proper clothing, want of a school at their doors ; want of earnest solicitation to attend those Schools on Ridge Avenue and beyond—these were the reasons they gave for non-attendance. For some time there was but one department, not for want of scholars but want of room—the room in which the sessions were then held being in the second story of the West Harrisburg Market House, which was by no means comfortable or convenient. We now have two departments with an average attendance in larger department of 60, and in the smaller of 35. The building we occupy is a public school house on Broad street near Front, which, while it is comfortable, is not much more convenient than the first place of meeting. The Infant School Room answers our purpose without any new arrangement of furniture, but for the larger department, which has its meetings up stairs it is necessary to remove the desks of the day school, in order to arrange our forms for the proper seating of the children. This removing and replacing of the public school furniture requires an amount of time and labor that often prevents us from the performance of other duties equally as important as this. What is most needed in West Harrisburg is a comfortable and well arranged Sunday School room. None of the churches in that part of the city possess one, and we believe if lack of interest in the Sunday School on the part of teachers and scholars can be attributed to some causes more than others. This is one of those causes. A large, convenient and attractive room, capable of seating comfortably 600 children, with teachers full of sympathy for the erring and careless, constrained by the love of the Master, who will not shun to associate sometimes with even the degraded ; presided over by a man industrious, intelligent, (in this work,) full of patience and Christ, is the most necessary institution in West Harrisburg to-day. No other institution can take its place. No other training than the kind these children would receive in

such a school will write upon the doors of your prison and alms house, for them, in the future, vacant ! vacant !

With the exception of one or two appropriations made at the establishment of the school, the association has not been burdened with any expense in maintaining it. The purchase of a good library, numbering over 400 volumes, two organs valued at \$200, subscriptions to papers, expenses of pic-nics and Christmas anniversary annually, all these have been met by the penny contributions of the children and the donations of teachers and friends, who have always shown great interest in our work.

The children of this School are the most interesting it has ever been our privilege to work for. Many of them have few of the social or educational privileges, or the church and family associations which the children of the better classes enjoy. As many of them as are able and can obtain it, are at work—in the cotton mill, at the car shops, in stores and other places, and some of them in that not to be despised vocation—"boot blacking." O, no, not to be despised. We want these boys who *work* for their living to know that they occupy in our affections a warmer place than they who are "clothed in soft raiment and live in king's palaces." O, sirs, we would rather welcome that boy with his dirty hands and face, and ragged clothes, (because he can't help it,) with his box and brush, and cheerful "shine 'em, sir," to our homes and tables, than we would the most neatly, the most intelligent, indeed, or the most elegantly dressed, who have no sympathy for these struggling to earn bread, to keep mother, to buy a home, to be a man, boys.

We meet these children on Sundays to teach them from the Bible the necessity of being a Christian, and on week days at their homes, on the street and have them come to our homes to show them the advantages of being a Christian, and that they may have by us an exemplification of what we teach.

We have no uniform lesson ; each teacher selects his or her own lesson, adapting it to the capacity of the scholars. The opening and closing exercises of the school consist of recitations of Scripture, stirring hymns, black-board exercises and extempore prayer in concert. In all these Jesus and His love is the prominent thought.

The children love the school. One little boy said to the superintendent last Sunday, "we are going to move away down town, sir." Then what will you do about Sunday school, it will be so far," said the Superintendent." "Oh, I'll come anyhow," said the boy. That boy has an earnest, devoted and loving teacher, and in his affection for her and the school he could not think of distance when his attendance was questioned. The Superintendent generally gets to the

school room about an hour and a half before the session commences. He has hardly got to the building before there are many little hands held up around him, with a "let me shovel the snow?" "May I bring up the coal?" "I'll dust the chairs;" all get something to do, and when the room is ready for the scholars they crowd around the Superintendent who will either get them singing some of their beautiful hymns or tell them a story, applying some text of scripture. We do not demand perfect order until the hour for the opening of the school has arrived. Previous to this we allow a free interchange of opinion and friendly salutations all around; but when the bell is sounded every scholar is in his or her place, and before a word has been spoken from the desk there is perfect order. Considering the associations of these children I never knew a more orderly or better behaved school.

A very interesting anniversary meeting was held on the first Tuesday after Christmas. There were addresses and dialogues by the boys and girls, hymns appropriate to the occasion, and addresses by some of the earnest friends of the school. To say, simply, that the boys and girls performed their parts *well*, and that the singing was *good*, would be a poor comment. The person who had charge of the preparatory work, who never left a meeting of the children for rehearsal without fearing that the whole affair would be a failure, feels that nothing commending the conduct or the performance of the scholars at the anniversary would be an exaggeration. The anniversary exercises developed the fact that we have in our schools boys whom the Lord hath intended for positions in life more exalted and more desirable for them than to bend over the looms or carry the hobbins in the cotton mill, or to submit to the unkind looks and often unkind words of the employer for a "job." If the Lord continues our efforts, the talents and their talents will be remembered. The effect, also, of the exercises was the creation of a very ambitious spirit among the scholars for a new school room. The first evening after the exercises several of the larger boys called on the Superintendent to tell him that they had a plan to raise the money for a new building. "I'll give a dollar every month," said one. "I'll give fifty cents," said another, "and we'll each give twenty-five cents," said the others. Previous to the development of this new idea, the scholars had resolved to do something for a new building by selling all the rags, iron, paper and bone they should find and giving the money thus earned to the building fund. Several had been quite successful, but now, with the new plan in hand, all were set to work afresh, and we are sure you never saw a greater display of juvenile enthusiasm than was manifested on New Year's day when we talked over this interesting subject. One boy said "he couldn't give money as the other

boys, because he had no work," "but," said he, "I'll take my boat and fetch the stones and the sand for the foundations." Two Sundays ago the Superintendent was busy with his very interesting class of boys, when he was interrupted by four of the very little girls of the Infant department, each one giving him a little brown paper parcel with fifty cents written thereon, and the fifth one giving him a note with these words, "Two Dollars from the Infant school for the new building." Some of these little ones have scarcely bread enough at home for their comfort, and yet this is the spirit they manifest.

The moral fruits of the school cannot be over estimated. From the day it first opened to the present time there has gone out from this work of the Association a Divine influence, converting and sanctifying in effect. Whole families have been brought under this influence through the little ones carrying home the blessed truths they had heard in the school, or in the prayer meeting connected with the school; and, to-day, there may be found men, women and children in the churches in that neighborhood, witnessing a good confession for our Blessed Lord, who received their first impressions through our school.

To hold up Jesus; to set forth His matchless love and transcendent grace; and so to save these precious souls—this has been and is a consuming desire with us. We go about our work, however, knowing that "Paul may plant and Apollos may water," but God alone can give the increase; and so when discouragements meet us on every side, we do "not grow weary in our well-doing, believing that in due season we shall reap if we faint not."

This record of the schools cannot be closed without testifying to the earnest devotion of the teachers, and their hearty co-operation with the officers and with each other in endeavors to give success to the work. Our earnest prayer is, that at that blessed day "when we shall be caught up to meet the Lord in the air," all of these precious—aye, more than precious—souls for whose salvation the teachers are so solicitous, may be found with their teachers at the Master's right hand.

MARTIN STUTZMAN,

Superintendent.

Harrisburg, Feb. 14, 1871.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MONTHLY UNION PRAYER MEETINGS.

To the President and Members of the Y. M. C. A.

The Committee on Monthly Union Prayer Meetings beg leave to submit the following brief report :

These meetings have been regularly held upon the first Sabbath of each month throughout the year. Some four years ago they were inaugurated, and have been conducted since that time, with but one or two exceptions, without interruption. This regularity, if we may be permitted to say it ourselves, commends it to all Christians. Without this feature we could have no reasonable hope for its continuance, with it, we doubt not, success will follow.

The place of meeting is previously announced through the city papers, and from the several city pulpits. This has the effect oftentimes of bringing together a large number from the several churches in which they are alternately held.

The time occupied is usually a half hour, though it is sometimes extended to ten or fifteen minutes longer, to the satisfaction, we think, of all who attend them. We would recommend that in no case the time be extended beyond forty-five minutes. If promptness be strictly observed, and short, earnest addresses, not exceeding five minutes, be given, your Committee think the time sufficiently long.

The success of the meetings depends in a great measure on the person who conducts the exercises. If he be active and wide-awake, the spirit of the meeting will be keenly felt; whilst if, on the other hand, he be dilatory, it will languish. Sincerely believing this, your committee would suggest that good judgment be exercised in selecting a brother to preside.

We have heard of some objection as to the manner in which the meetings are conducted—i. e., on the voluntary plan. This was not the plan at first adopted, but after due consideration it was deemed advisable to make the change, as we felt that it would meet the approval of a great majority of those who attend. It has been urged that there are those who, owing to naturally timid dispositions, hesitate for a time, unable to decide upon making the move, however much they may feel the inclination; and that while thus hesitating, another brother will spring up and occupy the time. This is true beyond doubt, and inasmuch as we would be glad to have them speak or pray, we would suggest to them the propriety of being quick and decided. To our mind, the present mode is much more desirable than any other that could be adopted.

We have in these meetings representatives of all evangelical churches. This is a fact worthy of note, and one by which it is demonstrated that not only in name, but in very reality, they are *Union* meetings. Coming together, as we

do, in the name of our blessed Redcemer, with hearts full of love to Him and each other, have we not reason to expect that He will answer our prayers and grant our requests.

Another fact that we rejoice to be able to note is this, that the meetings are not attended by the young exclusively; the middle-aged also, and those still further advanced in years find delight in meeting with us "around one common mercy-seat." We have heard it from their own lips, and have rejoiced in the same sweet experience. The stirring appeals to which they sometimes give utterance have caused many a tear to drop, and doubtless made impressions which eternity alone will reveal.

Owing to their many other engagements, the ministers of the various churches seldom find it convenient to attend. This we regret. We have on some occasions seen them present, and have received with pleasure, and we trust with profit, their words of exhortation and encouragement. The object of this meeting is the same as that of their preaching—the salvation of men; and we trust that they will remember it, and ask God's blessing to rest upon our efforts in this direction.

This meeting with the daily and weekly were commenced at nearly the same time. They may be mentioned, with others, as outgrowths of the Association. The memory of them and the results of them may live long after we shall have passed away. Who can tell whether or no this or that shall prosper, or whether they shall alike be good.

We think, Mr. President, that our efforts have not been in vain. There is still great room for improvement, and it is the desire of the committee during the coming year to make this meeting one of the most interesting on the catalogue. It can be done by individual labor and prayer. We ask that you will remember this meeting especially at the throne of grace, in your closets of prayer. The immediate or external effect of a meeting of this kind is two-fold; it encourages us as Christians in our line of duty, and does much to lower sectarian barriers which sometimes appear insurmountable; and Christians of different denominations, looking upon each other with distrust, find that they have "one Lord, one faith and one baptism," and that they are really working for one cause. Anything that promotes unity and harmony in the Church of Christ, helps both His cause and that of our Associations.

We see, brethren, the importance of this meeting. Will you not give it your prayers and your hearty co-operation? We believe you will.

CHARLES A. KUNKEL,

Harrisburg, Feb. 14, 1871.

Chairman.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON WEEKLY UNION PRAYER MEETINGS.

At our last annual meeting a committee was appointed to take charge of the weekly prayer meeting that was then in progress. It was soon found inexpedient to continue that meeting; the unseasonableness of the evening and the hour, and the inability of the committee to give that attention to the meeting it demanded, and the failure of the brethren to attend—these were thought sufficient reasons for abandoning the meeting; at least for the time.

At the stated meeting in October last, the chairman of your committee asked that the weekly prayer meeting be again revived; and that it be held on Saturday evenings, at 8:45 o'clock, instead of Thursday evenings, at 8 o'clock. It was accordingly revived, and, as was expected, the first meeting was a success; there being more of the brethren present than there had been at any of the former weekly meetings held in the rooms. The brethren went to work earnestly, and in addition to prayer and personal solicitation, it was their custom to assemble on the steps at the entrance to the building and sing two or three stirring hymns. This would draw a large crowd of spectators who were always cordially invited up stairs. We always succeeded in getting some to come with us, and generally such as needed the influence of the meeting more than others. That meeting is continued with the same success that attended its re-establishment. To all who have attended it has been a place where their spiritual strength has been renewed, and where they have enjoyed sweet intercourse with each other and the Master. Your committee begs that this meeting be never abandoned, and that each brother labor more earnestly to make it interesting and productive of more blessed results to converted and unconverted.

MARTIN STUTZMAN,
Chairman.

Harrisburg, Feb. 14, 1871.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON DAILY UNION PRAYER MEETINGS.

To the President and Members of the Y. M. C. A.

Your Committee on the Daily Union Prayer Meeting respectfully submit the following report:

This meeting has entered upon the sixth year of its existence, having celebrated its fifth anniversary on last Tuesday morning. It was inaugurated at a

time when there seemed to be a felt need of it. Its object was to promote Christian fellowship, and by earnest entreaty at the Throne of Grace to secure a revival of religion in our city. Then it was numerously attended, and much good was observed to have been done; but after a while the attendance began gradually to diminish, (the cause of which we are not able to assign), until it was reduced to less than twenty persons. For the past three or four years the attendance has not at any one time consisted of more than twenty nor less than two persons—the gospel-quorum.

During the past year the meeting has been held, with but a week's intermission, every morning, except on Sundays. We have observed the young, the middle aged and the old in attendance. It may be of interest to you to know, that boys on their way to school have frequently come into our meeting, to prepare themselves for the resistance of those temptations to which, in their sphere, they are so liable.

The religious exercises, comprising singing, reading of scripture, prayer, and occasionally spirited and pertinent addresses, have been continued but a half-hour each morning. In our singing we have used the collection of "Union Prayer Meeting Hymns," published by the American Sunday School Union, containing nearly all the familiar and favorite songs of Zion. As we sing these hymns in the summer, to well-known tunes, they are borne out through the open windows, and fall upon the ears of many who live in the vicinity, and all who pass along the street in front of our rooms. Thus some have been drawn into our meeting, others have received comfort, and may we not hope that some of the unconcerned have been made anxious? There is an infirm old lady, unable to leave her room, living a short distance from our rooms, who told one of the attendants upon our meeting that she made it a practice to sit by her window in the morning, while we are engaged in singing, that she might listen to our songs of praise. She says in this way she has derived much pleasure and comfort.

We have been gratified now and then by seeing the faces of persons from a distance, in our meeting, who have expressed emphatic approval of the manner in which the meeting has been conducted, and have noticed and commended the spirit and earnestness shown by the worshippers. A gentleman from a neighboring town, having occasion to visit our city once a week, invariably attends this meeting on such occasions. From conversation with him, we have gleaned that he deems it highly appreciable, and laments his inability to be with us every morning.

We are encouraged sometimes by receiving the hearty grasp of those whom we once counted among regular attendants, but whom a change of residence pre-

vents from being with us, except when they have occasion to revisit our city. They always make earnest and anxious inquiries concerning the welfare of the meeting, and assure us that they often think of and pray for it.

Our prayers are not always of a general character, for often they go up in behalf of individuals for whom they have been requested by fond and anxious friends and relatives. We cannot witness the effect of these special intercessions, but "this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us; and if we know that He hear us, whatsoever we ask we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him."

We deem it not inappropriate to this report to make reference to our meeting room. The floor is covered with good matting, the seats are comfortable, and the walls are decked with relevant scriptural texts, all of which contribute to its attractiveness and comfort. Almost the first thing that meets our view upon entering the room is the large motto spanning the front—"Workers together with Christ"—reminding us that our Christian life should not be one of ease, while we notice upon one of the side walls another—"Pray without ceasing"—giving us the key to successful labor in our Master's vineyard.

This is the brief history of the Daily Union Prayer Meeting during the past year. It seems almost a marvel that it has held together so long; and we are constrained to believe that a higher than human agency has protected it, and that it is the design of Him who prompted its establishment to yet make it a power for good in our community. It is true our hearts have sometimes desponded when we have observed the weak support given it by our Christian citizens; but when we have reflected upon the promises to them who remain faithful, made by One who cannot lie, despondency has given place to faith, and we have resolved to await his own good time for the realization of our desires, and the answers to our prayers.

JNO. E. PATTERSON.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PRISON INSTRUCTION.

During the past year religious services have been held in the prison every Sabbath, with one exception. Services consist of singing, exhortation and prayer, occupying about three-quarters of an hour.

The door of each cell is opened to enable the prisoners to hear the services. After the services I visit each prisoner and give him, or her, a religious newspaper and a tract, and hold conversation with them in regard to the salvation of their souls.

Prison statistics inform us, and our experience teaches us, that at least two-thirds of those committed to our prisons are young men. I am convinced that intemperance (the greatest curse that our country is afflicted with) is the cause of their committing these crimes. In a recent conversation with each prisoner, 48 in number, 40 of them informed me that their crimes were the direct result of intemperance. I have distributed to the prisoners during the past year 72 Bibles, 48 Testaments, over 1,200 religious newspapers, and 1,530 tracts.

A beloved brother of the Association furnishes the prison yearly with 480 religious newspapers, which are not included in the above number, making in all over 1,800 religious newspapers distributed to the prisoners during the past fiscal year.

I have reason to believe that our labors have not been in vain. Several prisoners have been redeemed—have had their sins forgiven them—are now new creatures in Christ Jesus. Some of them, since their release from prison, have visited the rooms of the Association, and there expressed their determination to live Christian lives. Quite a number of them have called on me and expressed their thanks for the interest I have taken in the salvation of their souls. Give God the praise; not man. In retiring from the position I have for several years occupied in the prison, I return my sincere thanks to G. W. Simmons, Esq., the worthy warden of the prison, and his son, Mr. Oliver B. Simmons, for their kindness shown to me.

Yours, fraternally,

E. FRANCISUS,
Chairman.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON STREET PREACHING.

To the President and Brethren of the Y. M. C. A.

Your Committee on Open Air Services take pleasure in presenting the Fourth Annual Report of their work.

In a city like our own, with a rapidly increasing population, there is need of special and continued efforts to reach the unreached and bring them under religious influence. It is a fact too often repeated to be startling, that the mass of the people are not under the sound of the gospel. To convey the message of gospel grace to this class in our community was the object had in view by your committee.

In the early part of last summer the committee entered upon the duties assigned them by the Association. The committee was composed of twelve members, which committee, after consultation as to what course should be pursued,

decided upon its division into two parts and assigned an equal number to the upper and lower sections of our city.

The committee assigned to the upper portion of the city selected a point in the vicinity of the market house, corner of Third and Broad streets, where, in former years, services of marked interest were held. However, after a trial of three or four Sabbaths, it was deemed expedient to transfer the services to a place further east. This was occasioned by recent improvements at the market house, which deprived us of an eligible site from which to operate. The committee finally fixed upon a place near to the Round House, where a considerable number of men engaged on the railroad were accustomed to assemble upon the Sabbath evening, for purposes of recreation. The particular spot selected was on the corner of Broad street and Pennsylvania avenue; the speaker using a curbstone from whence to deliver his message. The usual attendance was from 100 to 150, composed largely of young men, many of whom rarely if ever attended divine service. These young men seemed interested in sustaining the services by their correct deportment. Their silent and respectful attention was marked, and did not wear away with the novelty of the services. A considerable number of tracts were generally distributed at the close of each service, which were kindly received. As to the good accomplished at this place, in so far as it relates to the conversion of any one, while we are unable to report any, still there is reason to believe that these efforts in some measure prepared the way for the glorious work of grace which has recently taken place in that section of the city.

The second station was that at the corner of Race and Nagle streets, in the lower part of the city, when, for a period of five months, meetings of unusual interest were sustained. The brethren in charge of the services had much to encourage them. The singing and speaking was of that character which, without doubt, produced a salutary effect. One of the brethren, who is engaged in a business which requires him to be in that section of the city at times, is frequently greeted by the children with some melody which they had learned at those meetings. The attendance was from 150 to 200 persons.

Having thus presented you with a brief review of the work for the past year, your committee state that they feel that it has been a great privilege to engage in this missionary enterprise; and we would cheerfully acknowledge the hand that has led us in all our attempts to promote the cause of Christ, and the gracious aid of Him to whom we owe whatsoever of success may have crowned our labors. We believe that some good has been accomplished by these efforts, though the results have not, perhaps, equalled the hopes of the Association.

It is very difficult to reach in any other way any considerable number of that

class for whom these services were intended. Some difficulty is experienced in finding a sufficient number of members of the Association to sustain these meetings, since those who are willing to labor are usually engaged in duties which prevent them engaging as freely as they desire. It is hoped, however, that during the ensuing year new impetus will be given to this branch of the Association work—that all who can will engage heartily in it.

We would here express our gratitude to those friends of the Association who have so promptly volunteered in carrying on the work, and suggest that while we may be no longer associated in the same capacity, the field is still open, and reapers only are wanted to bring in a glorious harvest to the honor of our God.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN A. BORLAND, *Chairman.*

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ALMS HOUSE INSTRUCTION.

MR. PRESIDENT: The Committee on Alms House Instruction respectfully report, that the past year has been full of encouragement and closes rich in promise of accepted prayer and rewarded labor. The committee have been prepared upon every Sabbath day to go out upon this labor of love, but, as it was not always practicable for the worthy Steward, upon whose kindness we were dependent for conveyance, to send in for us, we regret that many precious days we were obliged to let pass away without anything done beyond the preparatory prayer; so that upon probably only twenty-six out of the fifty-two Sabbath days of the year, services were held. This is a matter of deep regret; for the attendance and interest manifested was always better when the services were held on successive Sabbaths than when one or two weeks were—however unwillingly—permitted to pass away unemployd. We, however, devoutly thank God that He has used us for His glory, and that He “whose service is a rich reward,” has permitted us to engage in this labor which has been of so great blessing to our own hearts. It has been so pleasant and so soul-refreshing that we can scarcely call it *labor*, excepting as we consider labor a source of blessing, if not a blessing in itself.

Your committee have been very much interested in the boys, of whom there are sometimes as many as forty (40) in the institution. ranging in age from ten to fourteen years. Sir, how could the Young Men’s Christian Association be better employed than in sowing the seeds of immortal life in the hearts of this class, who, God willing, are soon to be numbered among the *young men* of our

land. How important is it that they should have religious training! They are there growing up, surrounded by adults, too many of whom are adepts in wickedness, both in word and deed, and whose example, if not counterbalanced, must have the most pernicious effects upon the minds of the young. Therefore, your committee feel that, did their work lie wholly among this class—the rising generation—it would be sufficient to warrant any expense of time and labor. These little fellows are remarkably attentive during the services, and to see them looking eagerly and intelligently up into the face of the speaker is almost inspiring. It is very interesting to witness them, as they seat themselves at the table to partake of their simple meal, reverently bow their heads and repeat in concert our Lord's prayer. This is a part of the work of a former member of the committee. In addition to the regular services, we give them upon each Sabbath a verse from God's Holy Word, to remember and repeat upon the succeeding Sabbath. The good to result in after years from thus impressing scripture truths upon their youthful minds cannot be overestimated.

Your committee have found a source of great blessing in their visitation of the sick, infirm and dying, in their rooms. Among these we find many who have seen far better days, and some are persons of intelligence and education, but who, from various causes, such as loss of health or limbs, or loss of the use of their members by paralysis, etc., have been left without means of earning a living; and these, together with pecuniary losses, have caused them to be thrown upon the cold "charity" of the world, and are left almost without an earthly friend. Thanks to the efforts of Christian directors, steward and matron, the condition of this class is not so bad as it might be under other surroundings. Your committee have read comforting passages from the blessed book; sang the "songs of Zion;" have prayed and conversed by the bedside of many a one who was soon to cut loose from the things of time, and be launched out upon the untried eternity; and they have found, we rejoice to say, many whose "faith was great," and who doubtless ere this have joined the glorious, happy throng of those who, having "come out of great tribulation, have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb," and now stand nearest the throne, in sweet and close communion with the Prince of Glory. It is a blessed thing to be permitted to smooth, even in the least, the pathway of a departing saint, and to hear, unheard but by the ear of faith, a sweet voice saying, "Ye have done it unto me."

Among the inmates generally, there has of late been a marked increase of interest in the services; and could we make arrangements to hold services every Sabbath, without intermission, we have reason to believe that the results would

be exceedingly gratifying to all who have love for the Master and love for their fellow men. But this is probably impracticable at present. The first appearance of this increase of interest was a few weeks ago, when two of the brethren, after services, went to converse with a woman who was supposed to be very near death's door. They sang in a low voice that precious prayer-hymn, "Jesus, lover of my soul, let me to Thy bosom fly," adding the chorus, "I am trusting, Lord, in Thee." The singing attracted quite a number of women—for it was in their ward—who were deeply moved, so that there were held that day three prayer-meetings in different rooms. We regret that several Sabbaths have been missed since then, owing to the state of weather and condition of roads; but are glad to report that the attendance upon last Sabbath was exceedingly larger than ever before, showing, we hope, that it was and is not a passing impulse of excitement, but verily the troubling of the waters which brings healing of the mind.

Your committee, before closing their report, desire briefly to refer to the assistance which has been so cheerfully accorded them by the steward and matron, in providing conveyance to and fro, and in so bountifully providing for our refreshment and comfort; by the teacher of the school, in her highly valued services at the organ; and by the brethren who have so cheerfully responded to our calls upon their time and services. Indeed, without their several help, the work of the committee had been far less satisfactory. To one and all of them we tender our heartfelt thanks.

In conclusion, Mr. President, your committee would say, and that without affectation, that they feel deeply sensible of their own shortcomings. In reviewing the past, with its unimproved opportunities, we feel, and we must feel, that we have not done all, nor what we have done as well as we might have done; and must acknowledge that we are unprofitable servants. But what little has been done we leave in His hands who can make all things work together for good; who can bring praise out of wrath, and out of weakness strength.

WALTER F. FAHNESTOCK, Jr.,

Harrisburg, Pa., Feb. 14, 1871.

Chairman.

Verbal reports were received from the Committees on *Lectures, Statistics, Ways and Means* and *Visitation of Sick Members*.

The Association's "Organization" Committee (appointed at last preceeding stated meeting) gave a verbal report, showing that the members thereof have entered zealously upon their duties, and already have Associations at three or more places, about ready to organize.

Two new Committees of the Association—*Temperance* and *Cottage Prayer Meeting*—were appointed at the Annual Meeting, and is expected that they will be exceedingly useful during the new year.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS.

PREAMBLE.

We, the subscribers, actuated by a desire to promote evangelical religion among young men resident in or visiting this city or vicinity, and impressed with the importance of concentrated effort in accomplishing that object, and desirous of forming an Association in which we may together labor for the end proposed, hereby agree to adopt for our government the following Constitution, to wit:

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.—NAME AND OBJECT.

Sec. 1. The name of this Association shall be “THE YOUNG MEN’S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION OF HARRISBURG.”

Sec. 2. The object of this Association shall be the improvement of the spiritual, mental and social condition of young men.

ARTICLE II.

Sec. 1. The members of this Association shall be constituted of four classes, viz: active, associate, honorary and life members.

Sec. 2. Any man who is a member in good standing of an evangelical church, may become an active member by signing the Constitution, and the payment of two dollars in advance, annually. Active members only shall be eligible to office, which privilege shall cease at the age of forty years. It shall be the particular duty of the active members to carry out the object of this Association.*

Sec. 3. Any man of good moral character may become an associate member of this Association by signing the Constitution and paying two dollars annually in advance; and shall be entitled to all the privileges of the Association, except that of being eligible to office.

Sec. 4. Life members may be constituted by the payment, at any one time, of twenty dollars; subject, however, to the restrictions and qualifications named in Sections 2 and 3 of this Article.

*By a resolution of the Association fourteen years is the minimum age.

Sec. 5. Honorary members may be constituted from such classes as the Association may deem proper, and shall be entitled to all the privileges of this Association, except those of voting and holding office.

Sec. 6. All applications for membership, and the evidences of the qualification of the applicants, shall be reported through a special committee; and a vote of two-thirds of the members present shall be required to elect said applicants.

Sec. 7. Ladies may become members of this Association by signing the Constitution and paying one dollar annually; and they shall be entitled to the use of the Library.

Sec. 8. All members, subject to an annual assessment, shall be deprived of the rights and privileges of membership if payment be deferred one (1) year—due notice having been given; unless continued by special vote of the Association.

ARTICLE III.—OFFICERS.

Sec. 1. The officers of this Association shall consist of a President, one Vice President from each congregation represented in the Association, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, a Librarian, and a Treasurer; also, there shall be a Board of Managers, consisting of one member from each congregation represented in the Association, of which the officers elect shall be *ex officio* members.

Sec. 2. All the above named officers shall be elected by ballot at the annual meeting, and shall remain in office until their successors are appointed.

ARTICLE IV.—VACANCIES IN OFFICE.

In cases of any vacancy occurring in any office, the Board of Managers shall have power to fill the same until the time of the next annual election.

ARTICLE V.—DUTIES OF MEMBERS.

Sec. 1. The members of the Association shall seek out young men taking up their residence in Harrisburg and the vicinity, and endeavor to bring them under moral and religious influence, by aiding them in the selection of suitable boarding houses and employment; by introducing them to the members and privileges of this Association; by securing their attendance at some place of worship on the Sabbath; and, by every means in their power, surrounding them with Christian influences.

Sec. 2. The members of this Association shall exert themselves to interest the churches to which they respectively belong, in its object and in its welfare. They shall labor to induce all suitable young men of their acquaintance to connect themselves with the Association, and use all practicable means for increasing its membership in activity and usefulness.

ARTICLE VI.—MEETINGS.

Sec. 1. There shall be a meeting of the Association on the second Tuesday evening of each month for the proposal and election of new members, for the promotion of social and religious intercourse, and for the reception and consideration of such information as may advance the welfare of the Association.

Sec. 2. There shall be an annual meeting of the Association on the second Tuesday evening in February of each year, at which time annual reports of the officers shall be read.

Sec. 3. Special meetings of the Association for the transaction of business may be called by the President, at the written request of the members, or by direction of the Board of Managers.

Sec. 4. Ten members shall constitute a quorum at any meeting where business is to be transacted, due notice thereof having been previously given.

Sec. 5. All meetings of the Association shall be opened and closed with appropriate devotional exercises.

ARTICLE VII.

In the event of the dissolution of this Association, the Library thereof, including as well the magazines and periodicals as the book cases and shelving belonging thereto, shall vest in a Board of Trustees, consisting of three members, to be appointed by the Court of Common Pleas of Dauphin county, who shall hold the same in trust for the use of the citizens of Harrisburg as a public library, and for no other purpose whatever.

It shall be the duty of said Trustees to provide a suitable room, convenient of access, where they shall keep said Library, and to have a suitable person in attendance at least one evening in every week, from 6 to 10 o'clock, P. M., to give out and receive books, under such rules and regulations as said Trustees may prescribe, except that no person shall have more than two volumes out at any one time, nor keep any volume out more than two weeks without renewing the same. And the said Trustees shall have power to charge and collect from each and every person using said Library a sum not exceeding one dollar annually in advance, to be expended in defraying the expense of the room, the attendance of the Librarian, and the purchase of new books: *Provided*, That any person who has heretofore contributed, or who may hereafter contribute at one time ten dollars to said Library, shall be entitled to the use of the same without further charge; and the said Trustees shall have power to receive donations of and to purchase books for said Library, as well as to solicit and accept donations of money, to be expended by them in making such purchases.

ARTICLE VIII.

The provision of this Constitution by which none but members of evangelical churches in good standing may hold office, shall never be annulled; and no amendment of this Constitution may be made which, if made, would allow the said provision to be annulled. In other respects this Constitution may be altered or amended by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at any regular meeting of the Association: *Provided*, Such alteration or amendment shall have been proposed at least one month previously, at a stated meeting.

BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE I.

The order of exercises at the stated meetings shall be as follows :

1. Reading of the Scriptures and prayer.
2. Reading the minutes of the previous meeting.
3. Proposing names of new members.
4. Report from the Board of Managers.
5. Reports of standing committees.
6. Reports of special committees.
7. Miscellaneous business, such as extracts from interesting correspondence with similar Associations by the Corresponding Secretary; general intelligence, tending to advance the interests of the Society, and brief statements of the condition of its business affairs, when called for.
8. Election of new members.
9. Prayer.

ARTICLE II.

The monthly reports may be verbal, but the reports at the annual meeting of the Association shall be in writing.

ARTICLE III.

The transactions of the Association shall be regulated by parliamentary rules as laid down in Sutherland's Manual.

ARTICLE IV.

The hour of adjournment shall not be later than 10 o'clock, P. M., and a motion for suspending this rule shall be taken without discussion.

ARTICLE V.—DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

Sec. 1. It shall be the duty of the President, or, in his absence, one of the Vice Presidents, to preside at all meetings of the Association and Board of Managers, and preserve in strict exercise the rules established by parliamentary usage. It shall also be the duty of the President to present at the annual meetings of the Association a full report of its doings and progress during the past year.

Sec. 2. It shall be the duty of the Recording Secretary to notify the members of the time and place of meeting, and all officers and members of their election, and to keep a fair and correct record of the transactions of the Association and Board of Managers. He shall see that a full and complete register of the name, place of residence, denomination, and church of each member, arranged under the three classes, be kept at the rooms of the Association for inspection or reference. He shall also issue and countersign certificates of member-

ship, upon the application of any member about leaving the city ; which certificate shall be signed by the President.

Sec. 3. The Corresponding Secretary shall be the organ of the Association in its conference with the societies and the public. He shall keep files of all letters received, and record in a book kept for that purpose copies of all important ones received by him ; and shall report to the Board of Managers and Association whenever required.

Sec. 4. The Treasurer shall collect all moneys due the Association, and shall disburse the same under the direction of the Board of Managers ; and shall keep a full and correct account of his transactions, and report to the Board and to the Association when required, and at its annual meeting. Also, it shall be the duty of the Treasurer to notify, at the proper time, each member of the expiration of the time for which such member shall have paid his annual fee.

Sec. 5. It shall be the duty of the Librarian to have charge of the Library, which shall be open for the distribution of books from to P. M., at least one evening in every week ; and he shall conduct the Library according to rules framed for that purpose by the Library Committee. The Librarian shall have power to impose a fine of twenty-five cents on each member who fails to return his book or books to the Library at the expiration of two weeks after the time the book or books were taken out, which privilege is granted at once. The fine to be collected by the Librarian, and handed to the Treasurer, Members failing to comply with this section will be denied the privilege of the Library.

Sec. 6. The Board of Managers shall take the general supervision of the affairs of the Association—its finances, correspondence, rooms, library, lectures, publications, et cetera—and shall hold its meetings at least once a month, of which seven shall constitute a quorum, and shall construct By-Laws for their own government.

Sec. 7. The Board of Managers shall appoint from the active membership of the Association five or more committees, severally consisting of three persons, one of whom, the chairman, shall be Vice President. The committees shall be constituted as follows :

A Committee on Lectures.—They shall provide for public lectures upon subjects adapted to the spiritual and mental improvement of young men, and shall make arrangements for anniversary celebrations, and for all other public meetings of the Association.

A Committee on Library and Rooms.—They shall procure proper rooms for the Association, and make provision for furnishing, lighting, warming and keeping the same in order. They shall use all suitable means for the increase and preservation of the Library, provide papers and periodicals for the Reading Room, and shall approve all publications previous to their admission into the Library and Reading Room of the Association.

A Committee of Ways and Means.—They shall devise means for obtaining the necessary funds for the maintenance of the Association ; shall approve all accounts against the Association previous to their payment by the Treasurer ; and shall audit the Treasurer's account for the current year.

A Committee on Publication.—They shall superintend the printing and publishing of all books, documents, reports and circulars issued by the Association. They shall cause a statement of the objects and practical working of the Association, with a list of its officers and a designation of the locality of its rooms, to be forwarded to the pastors of each evangelical church in the county and vicinity.

A Committee on Statistics.—They shall collect such facts as they may deem of interest to the Association, or such as serve to show the moral and religious condition of the young men in this community, as well as collect any statistical information required by the Association.

A Committee on Prison Instruction.—They shall take measures for the moral and religious improvement of the inmates of the County Jail, by procuring the services of evangelical ministers to preach the gospel, by meetings for prayer, and the distribution in the prison of Bibles, religious books and papers.

A Committee on the Visitation of Sick Members.—They shall ascertain the names and place of residence of all sick members of the Association living in the city, and visit them at least once a week during their sickness. In case of severe illness they shall visit them at night, and if necessary call on any members of the Association to accompany them, who will be expected to co-operate with the committee in faithfully discharging this Christian duty. This committee is limited to five members.

A Committee on Monthly Union Prayer Meeting.—They shall make arrangements for holding a meeting for prayer to God, for the conversion of young men, upon the first Sabbath afternoon of each month; said meetings to be held in the several centrally located churches in order. They shall obtain permission of the proper officers of the churches; determine the hour, and procure the services of one of the brethren to conduct each meeting.

A Committee on Daily Union Prayer Meetings.—They shall have charge of a meeting for prayer for the outpouring of God's spirit, and the revival of his work in our city, to be held daily in the meeting room of the Association; and shall procure the services of one of the brethren to conduct each meeting.

A Committee on Street Preaching.—They shall, whenever practicable, hold meetings for religious instruction and worship in those portions of our city which are remote from churches; they shall determine the localities and times best suited for holding these meetings, the exercises of which shall consist of singing, prayer and the preaching of the Word; thus endeavoring to impress upon their hearers the importance of recognizing the claims of God upon their service and worship, and to lead souls to the Saviour.

ARTICLE VI.

Sec. 1. These By-Laws may be amended by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at any stated meeting, provided notice shall have been given at a previous stated meeting, or without notice, on the recommendation of the Board of Managers.

Sec. 3. No objection being made, any By-Law may be suspended during the meeting.





YOUNG MEN'S
CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

OF HARRISBURG, PA.

ROOMS IN COLLEGE BLOCK,

Third St., between Market and Walnut, second floor.

ALL ARE WELCOME.

In the Reading Room will be found a Library containing over 1500 volumes, comprising works on almost all subjects—Religious, Biographical, Historical, Poetical, Travel, &c., &c.; and Tables supplied with upwards of forty monthly, weekly and daily Magazines and papers.

DAILY PRAYER MEETING FROM 8 to 8.30 o'clock A. M.

WEEKLY PRAYER MEETING, SATURDAY EVENING, 8.45 to 9.15 P. M.

IN THE MEETING ROOM OF THE ASSOCIATION.